

Livestock and Livestock Products

All cattle and calves on farms January 1, 2002 in New Jersey totaled 46,000 head, 2,000 more than a year ago. Value per head decreased \$10 from the previous year to \$1,010. The 2003 inventory value was estimated at \$46.5 million, \$1.6 million more than the total of a year ago.

Milk cow numbers on January 1, 2003 remained unchanged at 13,000 head. Beef cows were estimated at 9,000 head, 1,000 more than the January 1, 2002 total. Of the total cattle and calf inventory, cows that have calved accounted for 48 percent. Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more totaled 11,000 head, 24 percent of total inventory. Of these, 6,000 were milk cow replacements, 3,000 were beef cow replacements, and 2,000 were intended for slaughter. There were 4,000 steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 9 percent of all cattle and calves. Bulls at 500 pounds and greater numbered 1,000 head or 2 percent of the total inventory. Calves under 500 pounds accounted for the remaining 8,000 animals, 17 percent of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2002. The 2002 calf crop was the same as 2001, totaling 18,000 head.

Milk production in the Garden State totaled 236 million pounds, up 1 percent from the 233 million pounds produced in 2001. The average number of milk cows remained unchanged at 13,000 head. Milk per cow averaged 18,154 pounds in 2002 compared to 16,643 a year earlier. The leading milk producing counties were Salem, Sussex, Warren and Burlington, accounting for 76 percent of the state's total. Value of production of milk totaled \$30.2 million during 2002, compared to \$37.5 million in 2001.

All hogs and pigs on New Jersey farms totaled 15,000 head on December 1, 2002. This number

was an increase of 2,000 head (15 percent) from the number of head on December 1, 2001. Value per head averaged \$84, \$14 dollars less than a year ago.

The total value of the hog and pig inventory value amounted to \$1.3 million, the same as the previous year. Of the total hogs and pigs on farm in the state, 13 percent were kept for breeding and 87 percent were market hogs. The New Jersey pig crop totaled 17,600, up 38 percent from 2001.

Egg production in the Garden State in 2002 decreased to 533 million eggs, compared to 556 million eggs in 2001. Eggs per layer averaged 267, down from 274 the year before. Average layer numbers on New Jersey farms totaled 2 million during 2002, unchanged from 2001. In 2002, poultry managers in the state received on average 51 cents per dozen eggs, 2 cents less than the previous year. The value of egg production in 2002 was down 8 percent from 2001 at \$22.7 million.

New Jersey turkey production in 2002 was 34,000 birds, down 10,000 from the number of turkeys raised the previous year. Turkey growers received an average price of 79 cents per pound, 1 cent less than the price in 2001. In 2002, the value of production decreased to \$551 thousand, down 23 percent from \$714 thousand the year before.

Honey production in 2002 amounted to 350 thousand pounds, decreasing 6 percent from the 374 thousand pounds produced the year before. Beekeepers received an average price of 98 cents per pound in 2002, up 13 cents from the previous year. The value of production rose from the 2001 level of \$318 thousand to \$343 thousand.